

h



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

(4)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/005,985	11/12/2001	Gene E. Nacey	569.013	9262

7590 07/26/2004

FERENCE & ASSOCIATES
129 Oakhurst Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

EXAMINER

BONSHOCK, DENNIS G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2173

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

h

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/005,985

Applicant(s)

NACEY, GENE E.

Examiner

Dennis G. Bonshock

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7-12-04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the claim appears to be dependent on it self, and incomplete.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 25, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuban et al., Patent #4,994,908, hereinafter Kuban.
5. With regard to claim 1, which teaches an apparatus for the graphical display of room information, the apparatus comprising, a display and an arrangement for producing a cell for being viewed on the display, the cell conveying information regarding a room, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-61 and in figure 3, the display comprising cells where the cells display information regarding the current status of a room.

Art Unit: 2173

6. With regard to claims 2, 14, which teach an arrangement for producing a matrix for being displayed on the display, the matrix being adapted to depict the rooms for which information is conveyed, said arrangement for producing a cell comprising an arrangement for producing a plurality of cells in conjunction with said matrix, wherein each cell corresponds to a different one of the rooms for which information is conveyed, Kuban further teaches, in column 13, lines 5-55 and in figure 3, a matrix that is used for depicting the room information where the cells provide information for one or the plurality of rooms.

7. With regard to claim 13, which teaches an apparatus for the graphical display of room information, the apparatus comprising, a display and an arrangement for producing a cell for being viewed on the display, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-61 and in figure 3, the display comprising cells where the cells display information regarding the current status of a room. With regard to claim 13, further teaching the cell having a plurality of modifiable attributes, and a controller for modifying the modifiable attributes, Kuban further teaches, in column 15, line 42 through column 16, line 2, the maid going through the process in which a worker enters their ID, and enters the room for processing, thereby changing the status of the room.

8. With regard to claim 25, which teaches a method of graphically displaying room information, the method comprising, the displaying a matrix, Kuban teaches, in figure 3, the display of a matrix of rooms with associated status information. With regard to claim 25, further teaching a display and an arrangement for producing a cell, in the matrix, for being viewed on the display, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-61 and in figure 3,

Art Unit: 2173

the display comprising cells where the cells display information regarding the current status of a room. With regard to claim 25, further teaching the cell having a plurality of modifiable attributes, and a controller for modifying the modifiable attributes, Kuban further teaches, in column 15, line 42 through column 16, line 2, the maid going through the process in which a worker enters their ID, and enters the room for processing, thereby changing the status of the room.

9. With regard to claim 37, which teaches a program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for the graphical display of room information, the method comprising, the displaying a matrix, Kuban teaches, in figure 3, the display of a matrix of rooms with associated status information. With regard to claim 37, further teaching a display and an arrangement for producing a cell, in the matrix, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-61 and in figure 3, the display comprising cells where the cells display information regarding the current status of a room. With regard to claim 37, further teaching the cell having a plurality of modifiable attributes, and a controller for modifying the modifiable attributes, Kuban further teaches, in column 15, line 42 through column 16, line 2, the maid going through the process in which a worker enters their ID, and enters the room for processing, thereby changing the status of the room.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

Art Unit: 2173

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 3-12, 15-24, and 26-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuban and Crawford, Jr., Patent #5,331,549, hereinafter Crawford.

12. With regard to claims 3, 15, and 26, Kuban teach the system for conveying room information for a plurality of rooms to a remote location in a matrix form (see column 4, lines 30-61 and in figure 3). Kuban, however, doesn't specifically mention the cells being adapted to display secondary information associated with each attribute of the cell. Crawford teaches a system for monitoring remote systems (see abstract), similar to that of Kuban, but further teaches that upon selection additional information can be displayed for a specific element (see column 2, lines 44-47, column 6, lines 34-47, and figures 3 and 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Kuban and Crawford before him at the time the invention was made to modify the remote monitoring system of Kuban to include the focused information screen as did Crawford. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because this would allow for specific information (possibly a summery of room charges, or special services requested) regarding the selected room to be displayed to the people at the manager location.

13. With regard to claims 4, 16, and 28, which teach the secondary information being displayed solely to an authorized user of the apparatus, Kuban further teaches, in column 4, lines 45-61, the manager being able to view specific information, an the maid/inspector being able to see their own specific subset of information.

Art Unit: 2173

14. With regard to claims 5 and 17, which teach the cell being adapted to modify an attribute upon a prompt from an authorized user of the apparatus, Kuban further teaches, in column 3, lines 51-53, the system being capable of input (ex: changing to a cleaned status).

15. With regard to claims 6, 18, and 30, which teach the room being a hospital room, Kuban teaches, in column 5, lines 5-25, the communications or room status being used in a hotel/hospital environment.

16. With regard to claims 7, 19, and 31, which teach the room being a hotel room, Kuban teaches, in column 5, lines 5-25, the communications or room status being used in a hotel/hospital environment.

17. With regard to claims 8, 20, and 32, which teach the cell depicting a bed, Crawford further teaches, in column 2, lines 44-47 and figures 3 and 4, the display of bed information.

18. With regard to claims 9, 21, and 33, which teach the cell indicating if the room is unoccupied, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-39, the cell depicting either a occupied or vacant for the room.

19. With regard to claims 10, 22, and 34, which teach the cell indicating if the room is occupied, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-39, the cell depicting either a occupied or vacant for the room.

20. With regard to claims 11, 23, and 35, which teach the cell indicating whether the room is in a stat condition, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 46-51, the matrix displaying a need to be made up indication.

Art Unit: 2173

21. With regard to claims 12, 24, and 36, which teach the cell indicating whether a bed within the room is being made, column 4, lines 40-45, the system knowing that a room is in the process of being made up/inspected.

22. With regard to claim 29, which teach authorization of a user being determined by comparing a password provided by the user to a databank of passwords, Kuban further teaches, in column 15, lines 42-61, the user entering an access code and ID to implement the system.

Conclusion

23. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach systems for displaying room status information, in matrix form, at a remote location.


24. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis G. Bonshock whose telephone number is (703) 305-4668. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

25. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2173

26. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

dgb



RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173